

Message Text

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10
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 AID-05

SCCT-01 SSM-03 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /080 W
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O R 261000Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8251
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1135

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PBOR, CASC, IS, JO, US
SUBJECT: KAHANE AND 28 OTHER AMERICAN JEWS ARRESTED DURING
HEBRON DEMONSTRATION

REF: JERUSALEM 1099

1. SUMMARY: TWENTY-NINE JEWISH AMERICAN CITIZENS LED BY
JDL ACTIVIST RABBI MEIR KAHANE WERE ARRESTED IN
HEBRON AUG 25 FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATION IN AND AROUND UNRWA
BUILDING USED UNTIL 1929 AS JEWISH HOSPITAL. ISRAELI SOLDIERS
GUARDING BUILDING MADE NO ATTEMPT TO PREVENT GROUP'S
ENTRY INTO BUILDING BUT AFTER ALMOST HOUR MOVED TO
ARREST THEM WHEN STONE-THROWING BEGAN. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED SEPTEL, ISRAELI POLICE HAVE INFORMED US THAT
29 AMERICAN CITIZENS, INCLUDING RABBI MEIR KAHANE AND EDWARD
FEIERSTEIN, BOTH LEADERS IN JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE, WERE
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ARRESTED AUG 25 IN HEBRON FOR TRESPASSING AND DISTURBING PEACE.

THEY WERE PARTICIPATING IN DEMONSTRATION AT FORMER JEWISH HOSPITAL BUILDING, NOW UNDER LEASE TO UNRWA, THAT JEWISH MILITANTS ARE TRYING TO TAKE OVER AND ESTABLISH AS SYNAGOGUE. THEY HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PETAH TIKVA AFTER APPARENTLY BEING HELD OVERNIGHT BY MILGOVT IN HEBRON.

3. RELIABLE AMERICAN JOURNALIST PRESENT AT SCENE TELLS US, DESPITE ADVANCE PUBLICITY FOR EVENT (PARA 3 REFTTEL), THREE SOLDIERS ON GUARD AT DISPUTED BUILDING MADE NO EFFORT TO PREVENT ENTRY OF GROUP WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN BUS AND CARS FROM JERUSALEM AT 12:20 P.M. AUG 25. TRUCK WITH MORE SOLDIERS DRIVE UP BUT STOOD BY. GROUP CONSISTED ENTIRELY OF YOUNG PEOPLE, INCLUDING 3 OR 4 GIRLS, EXCEPT FOR KAHANE AND FEIERSTEIN (WHO WEHUTDERSTAND IS FORMER DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF PHILADELPHIA AND IS HERE ATTENDING INTERATIONAL CON-FERENCE OF JEWISH LAWYERS). SOME BROKE INTO BUILDING, OTHERS CLIMBED TO ROOF, AND SOME REMAINED OUTSIDE. THEY DANCED HORA, SANG, DISPLAYED SIGNS AND SHOUTED SLOGANS: "ABRAHAM LIVED HERE AND SO WILL WE"; "HEBRON IS OURS"; "HEBRON IS JEWISH". KIRYAT ARBA "VIGILANTES WITH UNBUTTONED HOLSTERS" KEPT ARAB CHILDREN OF NEIGHBORHOOD BACK. AFTER ABOUT 45 MINUTES ARAB CHILDREN BEGAN THROWING STONES. THREE MORE TRUCKS OF SOLDIERS (APPARENTLY PARKED NEARBY) ARRIVED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, AND AT 1:17 P.M. THEY BEGAN ARRESTING DEMONSTRATORS AND LOADING THEM INTO TRUCKS. KAHANE EXHORTED GROUP NOT TO RESIST, AND ONLY ONE DID SO BRIEFLY.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SECURITY FORCES MOVED RAPIDLY AS SOON AS SIGNS OF VIOLENCE APPEARED, THEIR FAILURE TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO STOP ENTRY INTO DISPUTED PROPERTY OR TAKE ANY ACTION FOR ALMOST AN HOUR DOES NOT SEEM VERY CONSISTENT WITH GOI DECLARATION THAT IT INTENDS TO INSIST "THAT NO FACT BE ESTABLISHED IN HEBRON WITHOUT A CABINET RESOLUTION" OR WITH MILGOV INDICATIONS TO UNRWA THAT IT WOULD PROTECT PROPERTY.
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